

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Responsive to the Office Action of December 20, 2004, the Examiner's comments and the cited art have been noted and studied. Applicant notes the Examiner's indication that allowable subject matter is present in the claims.

The provisional rejection of Claims 1-8 and 12-22 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting based on the claims of commonly-owned copending application Serial No. 10/165,402, of which Applicants are inventors, is noted. Applicants would point out that this co-pending application has now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,736,005.

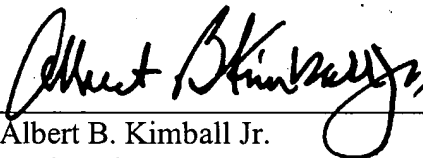
In view of the obviousness-type double patent rejection, a Terminal Disclaimer is submitted of even date. Further, paragraph [0001] of the specification has been revised to indicate the Patent Number of that now issued co-pending related application.

With respect to formal matters, a new title has been submitted and the specification corrected as requested by the Examiner. The specification and drawings have been reviewed as requested by the Examiner, and certain other minor informalities which were noted have also been corrected.

Accordingly, for the reasons detailed above, it is submitted that the matters raised in the Office Action of December 20, 2004, have been addressed. Applicant believes that the amendments above and the remarks contained herein place the application in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Applicant requests early notice if there are any outstanding issues that have not been addressed in this response. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees incurred in this application to Deposit Account No. 50-0259. Should the Examiner have any inquiries concerning this matter, please direct telephone calls to the undersigned at (713) 221-1377.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Albert B. Kimball Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets 1 through 9 of drawings include revisions to Figs. 1, 4, 6 and 11. These sheets, which include Figs. 1-11, replace the previous sheets 1 through 9.

In the revised drawings, reference character B and reference numeral 40 have been added to Figure 1. Reference characters B and E have been added to Figure 4 as described in the specification. Reference numeral 70 has been added to Figure 6 in a manner consistent with Figure 4.

In Figure 11, reference character B has been added, as described in the specification, and reference numerals 11a, 11b and 11i have been added as described in the specification. Finally, cross-sectional indications have been added to the structure identified with reference numerals 43 and 44 in accordance with the description of their materials in paragraph [0033] of the specification.